

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicant(s):</b>	Christopher J. Hess, et al.	<b>Examiner:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Serial No:</b>	To be assigned	<b>Art Unit:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filed:</b>	Herewith	<b>Docket:</b>	14831Z (ETH-1541)
<b>For:</b>	VESSEL HARVESTING RETRACTOR WITH BILATERAL ELECTROSURGICAL LIGATION	<b>Dated:</b>	April 1, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,725,479, dated March 10, 1998, issued to Knight et al.;
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,722,934, dated March 3, 1998, issued to Knight et al.;
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,667,480, dated September 16, 1997, issued to Knight et al.;

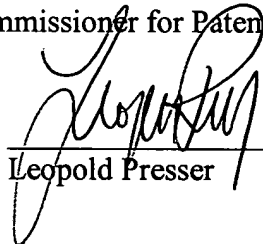
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL**

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: April 1, 2004

  
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Leopold Presser

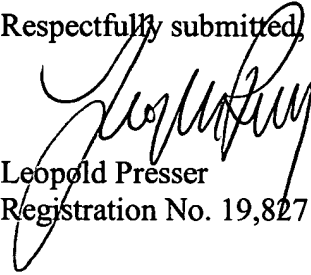
4. U.S. Patent No. 6,019,771, dated February 1, 2000, issued to Bennett et al.;
5. U.S. Patent No. 6,042,538, dated March 2000, issued to John D. Puskas;
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,970,982, dated October 1999, issued to Rodney C. Perkins;
7. U.S. Patent No. 6,296,640, dated October 2001, issued to Wampler, et al.;
8. U.S. Patent No. 5,695,514, dated December 1997, issued to Albert K. Chin;
9. U.S. Patent No. 6,520,975, dated February 2003, issued to Carlos A. Branco;
10. U.S. Patent No. 6,036,713, dated March 2000, issued to Maciej J. Kieturakis;
11. U.S. Patent No. 6,319,265, dated November 2001, issued to Richard S. Ginn;
12. U.S. Patent No. 5,759,150 issued to Konou et al. dated June 2, 1998;
13. U.S. Patent No. 5,817,013 issued to Ginn et al. dated October 6, 1998;
14. U.S. Patent No. 5,891,140 issued to Ginn et al. dated April 6, 1999;
15. U.S. Patent No. 5,913,818 issued to Co et al. dated June 22, 1999;
16. U.S. Patent No. 5,916,233 issued to Chin dated June 29, 1999;
17. U.S. Patent No. 5,921,919 issued to Chin et al. dated July 13, 1999;
18. U.S. Patent No. 6,022,313 issued to Ginn et al. dated February 8, 2000;
19. U.S. Patent No. 6,053,863 issued to Chin et al. dated April 25, 2000;
20. U.S. Patent No. 6,083,223 issued to Baker dated July 4, 2000;
21. U.S. Patent No. 6,129,661 issued to Iafrati et al. dated October 10, 2000;

22. U.S. Patent No. 6,277,137 issued to Chin dated August 21, 2001;
23. U.S. Patent No. 6,228,024 issued to Co et al. dated May 8, 2001; and
24. U.S. Publication No. US2003/0065349A1, dated April 3, 2003, issued to Hess et al.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (d), copies of the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 are not provided since they were previously made record of in the parent application Serial No. 09/967,205 filed on September 28, 2001. References 1-3 were cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 28, 2001 and reference 4 was cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 27, 2003 and references 5-11 were cited by the Patent and Trademark Office in an Office Action dated on May 27, 2003, references 12-23 were cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 27, 2003. Consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested, since the information provided herewith may be material to the examination of the present application as defined under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been performed or that no other art than that identified herein exists.

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrent with the filing of the present application. Therefore, this filing is made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1). An Information Disclosure Statement filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1) requires neither certification nor fee.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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LP:DJT/sf  
Enclosures      PTO Form 1449

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				Docket Number (Optional) <b>14831Z (ETH-1541)</b>		Application Number <b>To be assigned</b>	
				Applicant(s) <b>Christopher J. Hess, et al.</b>			
				Filing Date <b>Herewith</b>		Group Art Unit <b>Unassigned</b>	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,725,479	3/10/1998	Knight et al.			
		5,722,934	3/3/1998	Knight et al.			
		5,667,480	9/16/1997	Knight et al.			
		6,019,771	2/1/2000	Bennett et al.			
		6,042,538	3/2000	John D. Puskas			
		5,970,982	10/1999	Rodney C. Perkins			
		6,296,640	10/2001	Wampler et al.			
		5,695,514	12/1997	Albert K. Chin			
		6,520,975	2/2003	Carlos A. Branco			
		6,036,713	3/2000	Maciej J. Kieturakis			
		6,319,265	11/2001	Richard S. Ginn			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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		5,759,150	6/2/1998	Konou et al.			
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		5,891,140	4/6/1999	Ginn et al.			
		5,913,818	6/22/1999	Co et al.			
		5,916,233	6/29/1999	Chin			
		5,921,919	7/13/1999	Chin et al.			
		6,022,313	2/8/2000	Ginn et al.			
		6,053,863	4/25/2000	Chin et al.			
		6,083,223	7/4/2000	Baker			
		6,129,661	10/10/2000	Iafrati et al.			
		6,277,137	8/21/2001	Chin			

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